

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00
EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01
OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
SAL-01 FEA-01 /119 W

----- 126804 /72-60

R 141200Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5201

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 8716

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS, TS
SUBJECT: STRATEGY FOR INTERSESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON
LAW OF THE SEA

REF: STATE 298001

1. EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE
AT THIS STAGE TO APPROACH GOT AGAIN ON LOS, AS GENERAL
SUBJECT WAS RECENTLY DISCUSSED BY SECRETARY WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTY WHO EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO
CONTINUE DIALOGUE WITH US. IT WOULD BE USEFUL,
HOWEVER, TO PROVIDE GOT WITH BACKGROUND MATERIAL AS
SUCH BECOMES AVAILABLE IN DEPARTMENT. IN ORDER FOR
EMBASSY TO GIVE EFFECTIVE SUPPORT TO U.S. EFFORTS,
IT WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL FOR US TO HAVE FULL OUTLINE
OF THOSE ISSUES ON WHICH USG WISHES TO HAVE GOT
COOPERATION. IN ADDITION, EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE
ON NATURE U.S. DELEGATION'S REPORTED DISSATISFACTION WITH POSITIONS
TAKEN BY GOT DELEGATION IN RECENT LOS NEGOTIATIONS AND
EXTENT TO WHICH THESE DIFFERENCES HAVE BEEN RESOLVED.

2. GOT'S PRINCIPAL TECHNICAL-LEVEL LOS DECISION MAKER
IS MONCEF KEDADI, MOFA DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS AND CONFERENCES (ASST. DTY. LEVEL), WHO
NORMALLY SERVES AS HEAD OF TUNISIA'S LOS DELEGATION.
WHEN HE IS OUT OF COUNTRY, HIS PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENT
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IN TUNIS IS AHMED GHEZAL, DIRECTOR FOR EUROPEAN-AMERICAN

AFFAIRS (ASST. SECY. LEVEL). KEDADI IS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE FREEDOM IN CONDUCTING LOS NEGOTIATIONS, ALTHOUGH GENERAL BOUNDARIES AND OBJECTIVES ARE ESTABLISHED BY FOREIGN MINISTER. EMBASSY NORMALLY WOULD MAKE LOS APPROACHES TO KEDADI OR, SHOULD HE BE OUT OF COUNTRY, TO GHEZAL.

3. IF DEPARTMENT SHOULD DECIDE TO SEND HIGH-LEVEL PREPARATORY MESSAGE TO GOT PRIOR TO NEXT NEGOTIATING SESSION, IT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTY. TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, WE SHOULD AVOID GOING TO FOREIGN MINISTRY ON INDIVIDUAL ISSUES WHICH CAN BE DEALT WITH BY CONSULTING KEDADI IN TUNISIAN DELEGATION.

MULCAHY

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